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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/321,738	05/28/1999	LEE C. HAROLD	53470.000006	6984

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EXAMINER

SINGH, RACHNA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

✓

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/321,738

Applicant(s)

HAROLD ET AL.

Examiner

Rachna Singh

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4, 5, 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: application, filed 05/28/99;
2. Claims 1-19 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 8, and 16 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1-2, 8-9, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainsbury et al., US Patent 6,078,924, 6/20/2000 (filed 6/30/98) and further in view of Clancey et al., US Patent 6,134,563, 10/17/00 (filed 9/19/97).

In reference to claims 1, 8, and 16, Ainsbury teaches a method and apparatus for information browsing, querying, analysis, and report creation. Ainsbury discloses a method of providing a document analysis using an OLAP query. See column 7, lines 22-42. Ainsbury further discloses a visualization control in which a user can provide various ways to view data elements and an analysis template which allows for analysis on specific topics (compare to ***“report receiving means for receiving a report from an OLAP system”***). Ainsbury does not disclose a means for generating a spreadsheet application for the report or a transmitting means for transmitting the spreadsheet application within the page over a network. Clancey teaches a system in which reports can be used to summarize, organize, calculate and analyze data. Clancey discloses

that a spreadsheet program such as Microsoft Excel can be used to create the report in a form of an electronic spreadsheet consisting of matrix of rows and columns for displaying values, text, and for calculating values. The spreadsheet can also be formatted to vary the presentation of information contained within the report. The spreadsheet program can automatically enter information into the cells. Clancey teaches a means in which a spreadsheet application is incorporated into a report. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ainsbury's system for receiving a report from an OLAP system with a spreadsheet application as disclosed by Clancey since it allows the user to organize, calculate, and analyze data from the report.

In reference to claims 2 and 9, Ainsbury and Clancey do not disclose a system using relational OLAP; however, using ROLAP in a system that accesses data stored in a Data Warehouse to provide OLAP analyses would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made since it provides direct access to data in the data warehouses thus optimizing the retrieval.

5. Claims 3-4 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainsbury et al., US Patent 6,078,924, 6/20/2000 (filed 6/30/98) and further in view of Clancey et al., US Patent 6,134,563, 10/17/00 (filed 9/19/97), as applied to claims 1, 8, and 16 above, and further in view of Siow et al., US Patent 6,301,590, 10/9/2001 (filed 8/11/97).

In reference to claims 3 and 10, while Ainsbury and Clancey disclose formatting the reports. Siow, however, teaches a means with which a user can customize the

appearance of the reports. Siow discloses a system for formatting and displaying reports from data on the Internet. The data is obtained for a report by accessing a data repository. The user can view the data in multiple different graphical presentations. See column 9, lines 30-62. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Siow's system of report formatting with multiple presentations with Ainsbury's and Clancey's system of report generation since it provides the user with more display options which was well known at the time the invention was made.

In reference to claims 4 and 11, Ainsbury and Clancey's system jointly does not disclose a format of a merged report; however, Siow discloses a system in which the user can specify multiple reports and format for the display of the multiple reports on a single page. See column 9, lines 32-61. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Siow's system of merging reports into Ainsbury's and Clancey's system since it allows a user to present information from multiple reports within a workbook in a single presentation.

6. Claims 5, 7, 12, 14, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainsbury et al., US Patent 6,078,924, 6/20/2000 (filed 6/30/98) and further in view of Clancey et al., US Patent 6,134,563, 10/17/00 (filed 9/19/97), as applied to claims 1, 8, and 16 above, and further in view of Comer et al., US Patent 5,819,293, 10/6/98.

In reference to claims 5, 12, and 17, Ainsbury and Clancey's system jointly does not disclose a means for receiving report requests comprised of macros and a

presenting means with macros to modify the presentation of the report; however, Comer teaches using code in the form of a macro to execute various form instances. Comer teaches using macro facilities for providing various formatting options including printed pages and text, numeric values, captions, and legends in graphs. Comer's system teaches the use of a spreadsheet template to make changes to spreadsheet programs. See columns 1-2. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ainsbury and Clancey's system of presenting a report and a spreadsheet application with Comer's spreadsheet template for altering formats using macros since Comer's invention is related to altering presentation means in a report.

In reference to claims 7, 14, and 19, Comer discloses using macros to manipulate the format of the spreadsheet application. The rest of claims 7, 14, and 19 are rejected under the same rationale used in claim 5, 12, and 17 above.

7. Claims 6, 13, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainsbury et al., US Patent 6,078,924, 6/20/2000 (filed 6/30/98) and further in view of Clancey et al., US Patent 6,134,563, 10/17/00 (filed 9/19/97), and Comer et al., US Patent 5,819,293, 10/6/98., as applied to claims 5, 12, and 17 above, and further in view of Broman et al., US Patent 5,754,858, 5/19/98.

In reference to claims 6, 13, and 18, Broman teaches a system of using a module for providing a default user interface for the format of a project such as a report in a spreadsheet. See abstract and columns 1-3. Broman further teaches using an API module to customize the project. Comer allows for the creation of macros for use in

formatting the reports. Broman teaches using macros to allow a user to create a custom application project generator according to the API module. See columns 16-17. It would have been obvious to incorporate Broman into the system disclosed jointly by Ainsbury, Clancey, and Comer, since it shows how to customize a report (such as that in a spreadsheet) with the use of macros and API modules.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 6,317,750 B1 Tortolani et al. 11/13/01 (filed 10/26/98)

US Patent 5,572,644 Liaw et al. 11/5/96

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh at 703.305.1952. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at 703.308.5186.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

After-Final **703.746.7238**
Official **703.746.7239**

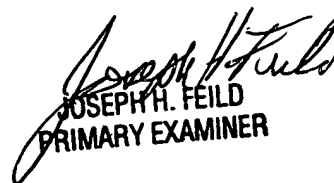
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Non-Official/Draft 703.746.7240

Hand-Delivered responses should be brought to Crystal park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Rachna Singh
May 17, 2002


JOSEPH H. FEILD
PRIMARY EXAMINER